

REMARKS

Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 2-7 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Claims 2, 4 and 7 are re-written in independent form. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2, thereby curing its dependency from a cancelled claim.

Also, claims 2 and 3 are amended to clarify a feature recited thereby.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the reference cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 4, 2004.

Applicant respectfully requests that in the next Office correspondence the Examiner acknowledge review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 14, 2005.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito, U.S. Patent No. 6,363,240.


Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection is moot as to this claim.

Claim 3 now depends from independent claim 2, which the Examiner

stated is allowable. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 2 is allowable.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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